

Federal 2005 Funding (Appropriations) Requests

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
February 2004 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

Prepared by: Larry Ehl, Federal Liaison
Approved by: Paula J. Hammond, Chief of Staff

PURPOSE:

To inform the Commission about the federal 2005 appropriations process, and provide an update on reauthorization of TEA-21.

Commissioners will be provided with a brief overview of the Congressional appropriations process and how WSDOT identifies projects for funding consideration.

Depending on when our requests are finalized, the list will be provided either in the Commission Notebook or at the Commission meeting.

ACTION/OUTCOME:

No action is required.

DISCUSSION:

Federal appropriations, or earmarks, for Washington State have grown in size and importance over the past few years. This is a result of Congress increasing the number and amount of earmarks, and Senator Patty Murray's role as Chairman or ranking member of the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee.

Federal budget pressures, however, slowed the growth of transportation earmarks in 2004 and is expected to more negatively impact 2005 transportation earmarks.

WSDOT in the last few years has attempted to create a more strategic and collaborative process for selecting projects

RECOMMENDATION:

No recommendation is necessary.

For further information, contact: Larry Ehl, Federal Liaison at 360-705-7024.